GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4772
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
NCAER SURVEY
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) whether a survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research on behalf of Department of Information Technology reveals that Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are the four Indian States thathave emerged as leaders in the field of e-readiness;

(b) if so, the main findings of the survey; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve e-readiness in other States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a): According to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) report, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the leading States in the country in terms of e-readiness.

(b): The survey conducted covered all the States/Union Territories(UTs) to assess their e-readiness. The data for the study was collected from the State Governments/ UTs in the form ofstructured questionnaires. In addition, NCAER has also made useof the primary data collected by them for their exercise on Market Information Surveyof Households (MISH), pertainingto percentage of households with phone, PC, internet connection and cable TV.

In the NCAER study,States/UTs have been rated on six broad parameters namely Network Access, Network Learning, Network Policy, Network Society, e-Governance and Network Economy. (Salient features of these parameters are at Annexure - I). Basedon these parameters, NCAER have categorised States in sixslots: Leaders, Aspiring Leaders, Expectants, Average Achievers, under Achievers and Least Achievers. In the report, suggestions have also been made regarding Action Plan atthe State and at the National Level.

(c): Improving and enhancing e-readiness of States and UTs is a continuing effort. Some of the measures taken by the Government, which have helped to improve the e-readines of states in the country are as follows:

Department of Information Technology (DIT)through National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established a Nationwide ICT Network (NICNET) - with Gateway Nodes in all Central Government Departments), State/UT Secretariats (28+7),and about 600 District Administrations for ICTservices including Internet, Electronic Mail and World Wide Web facilities. NIC has alsoestablished a nation wide video conferencing network covering all the States.

ERNET India, a society under DIT, has provided internet facility to various educational/research institutions across the country.

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up 39 Centres all over the country (list is enclosed at Annexure II).

Department of Electronics Accreditation Computer Courses (DOEACC)Centres (erstwhile Centre for Electronic Design & Technology of India (CEDTI) havebeen set up at seven locations i.e. Aurangabad, Calicut, Gorakhpur, Imphal, Srinagar/Jammu, Tezpur/Guwahati and Aizawal offering short-term and long-term training courses in Electronics and IT.

With the specific objective of bridging the digital divide and promoting the use of IT in states that have been lagging behind inthis respect, DIT has implemented a Scheme to establish CommunityInformation Centres (CICs) at487 block headquarters in the seven North-East States and Sikkim.